

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS RO
SUBJECT: DEPFONMIN PACOSTE ON PHYSICAL SECURITY PROBLEM IN NYC

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 6556 NOTAL (B) USUN 2869 (C) STATE 211623

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING ON CONSULAR PROBLEMS SEPTEMBER 15,
DEPFONMIN CORNEL PACOSTE COMPLAINED "INFORMALLY AND PER-
SONALLY" TO AMBASSADOR ABOUT HANDLING OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN
FRONT

OF ROMANIAN MISSION, NOTING "EXTREME IRRITATION" HERE
AND EXPRESSING WISH TO RETURN INFORMALLY TO SUBJECT SEPTEMBER
22. COMPLAINT WAS FRAMED IN TERMS OF LACK OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF U.S. LAW, AND "INFORMAL" MODE SUGGESTS ROMANIANS WISH TO
WORK PROBLEM IN PRACTICAL MANNER. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR
NOTED SERIOUSNESS WE ATTACH TO MATTER AND MENTIONED USEFULNESS
OF ROMANIANS' PROVIDING COMPLAINANTS IN INFRINGEMENT CASES
AND OF MAINTAINING CALM DURING DEMONSTRATIONS. WOULD AP-
PRECiate INFO ON WHAT PACOSTE CAN BE TOLD ABOUT STEPS ALREADY
TAKEN, LEONARD MEETING WITH NYPD, ISSUES RAISED CONCERNING
COMPLAINTS AND OTHER FACTORS IN REF A, AND OTHER POINTS
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH AMBASSADOR TO RAISE, FOR SEPTEMBER 22
ENCOUNTER. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO CONSULAR
ISSUES, DEPFONMIN PACOSTE RAISED "ON HIS OWN--NOT UNDER INSTR-

UCTIONS" WITH AMBASSADOR PROBLEM OF NYPD HANDLING OF
DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST ROMANIAN MISSION IN NY. PROBLEM HAD
ARISEN DURING RECENT DEMONSTRATION WHICH IONITA HAD BEEN IN-
STRUCTED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT, HE SAID, BUT IS MORE GENERAL, AND

AROUSES "EXTREME IRRITATION" HERE IN BUCHAREST. AS HE SAW IT, ROOT OF DIFFICULTY IS HOSTILITY OF SOME ELEMENTS OF NYPD. ROMANIANS REALIZE TROUBLES DO NOT REFLECT ATTITUDE OF NATIONAL OR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS PER SE. "DECLASSE" ELEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE DEMONSTRATING AGAINST ROMANIAN MISSION IN NEW YORK EXIST IN EVERY COUNTRY; ROMANIAN HAS THEM TOO; AND EVEN THOUGH THE MEANS OF CONTROL DIFFER THEY CAN BE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS EVERYWHERE.

3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE TOO APPROACH PROBLEM WITH SERIOUSNESS IT DESERVES, AND NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR LEONARD HAS TAKEN A STRONG INTEREST IN IT. HE SAID HE HAD NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THERE WAS ANY POLICE HOSTILITY. RATHER NYPD ATTITUDE APPEARS TO BE ROOTED IN OVERWORK SUBSEQUENT TO WITHDRAWAL OF EXECUTIVE PROTECTION SERVICE. BUT WE AGREE THAT ALL POSSIBLE EFFECTIVE STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE SECURITY OF ROMANIAN MISSION PERSONNEL WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF U.S. LAW. ALTHOUGH HE HIMSELF WAS NOT YET CLEAR ON JUDICIAL IMPLICATIONS, AMBASSADOR WENT ON, FURNISHING COMPLAINANTS SEEMS TO BE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THOSE WHO INFRINGE THE LAW. (PACOSTE'S PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS THAT HE HAD THOUGHT STATE DEPARTMENT HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR INITIATING STEPS AGAINST VIOLATORS, AND THAT COMPLAINING TO DEPARTMENT OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH.) AMBASSADOR THEN NOTED IT IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH SIDES OF A DEMONSTRATION TO REMAIN CALM, AND REFRAIN FROM INFLAMMATORY VERBAL ABUSE. PACOSTE REPLIED THIS WAS WELL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDERSTOOD, BUT THAT AT TIMES IT LOOKED AS IF DEMONSTRATORS WERE PREPARED TO ENTER MISSION PREMISES, AND IF THEY DID THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT AMERICAN LAW ALLOWS AND DOES NOT ALLOW. IF DEMONSTRATORS WANT TO SHOUT THEMSELVES HOARSE, THEY CAN, BUT THEY OUGHT TO BE KEPT AT THE DISTANCES PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

4. PACOSTE CLOSED EXCHANGE BY SAYING HE WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO THIS MATTER "INFORMALLY" WHEN HE AND AMBASSADOR MET AT LIBYAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 22.

5. COMMENT AND REQUESTED ACTION: "INFORMAL" EXCHANGE AT THIS LEVEL MAKES CLEAR THAT ROMANIANS WISH TO WORK THIS "EXTREMELY IRRITATING" PROBLEM IN PRACTICAL MANNER, AND IN MY VIEW WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS WILLINGNESS. IN PREPARATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH PACOSTE NEXT THURSDAY, I WOULD APPRECIATE:
--INDICATION OF WHAT I CAN SAY TO PACOSTE WITH REGARD TO STEPS ALREADY TAKEN
IN ANTICIPATION OF PROBLEM ARISING DURING UNGA;
--ANY REPORT AVAILABLE ON AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S TALK WITH NYPD (REF USUN 2879);
--INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA

1 REF A, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING IMPLICATIONS FOR ROMANIANS
OF SUPPLYING COMPLAINANTS; AND
--ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS DEPARTMENT WISHED TO RAISE RE NY
PHYSICAL SECURITY.

6. A FINAL COMMENT: IF MY MEMORY IS CORRECT, APOSTOLIU HAS
BEEN CENTER OF ALMOST ALL DEMONSTRATIONS ABOUT WHICH THE
ROMANIANS HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT AS HAVING GOTTEN OUT OF HAND,
AND IN WHICH THEY HAVE ALLEGED VARIOUS FORMS OF
POLICECONNVANCE
OR HOSTILITY. I THINK THAT GIVEN APOSTOLIU'S STATED INTENTION,
SERIOUS THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING A POLICE POST
AT THE ROMANIAN MISSION FOR THE DURATION OF APOSTOLIU'S CURRENT
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